

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-20 EB-11 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00

RSC-01 L-03 SPC-03 IO-14 AGR-20 OMB-01 TRSE-00 COME-00

DRC-01 SS-20 NSC-07 CIEP-02 SWF-02 /136 W

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P R 262330Z MAR 74

FM AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5078

INFO AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA

AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE

AMEMBASSY MANAGUA

AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA

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E.O. 11652 - N/A

TAGS: ECON, EAID, PFOR, XK, ES

SUBJECT: FOURTH MEETING CACM HIGH LEVEL COMMISSION, MARCH 20-23

REF: GUATEMALA 1632

GUATEMALA ALSO FOR ROCAP

1. SALVADORAN REPRESENTATIVE TO THE HIGH LEVEL COMMISSION (HLC), LIC LUIS BUITRAGO AND HIS ALTERNATE DR CARLOS CORDERO, CONSIDER THE LATEST MEETING OF THE HLC, "A SUCCESS, A POSITIVE STEP FORWARD." ALTHOUGHTHE MEETING BEGAN WITH SOME STRONG POSTURING BY INDIVIDUAL COUNTRY REPRESENTATIVES, IT ENDED, ACCORDING TO THESE SOURCES, ON AN "UPBEAT" AND AN ANTICIPATION OF GATHERING MOMENTUM IN THE HLC'S WORK. WE FOUND NO CONFIRMATION OF THE EXTREME GOES STANCE REPORTED IN REFTEL. BUITRAGO, THE GOES REPRESENTATIVE, EXPRESSED HOPE THAT THE 5TH (SECOND WEEK OF MAY SAN JOSE) AND 6TH (JUNE AT MANAGUA) SESSIONS WILL COMPLETE DISCUSSIONS OF THE CHAPTERS ON INDUSTRY AND CUSTOMS. DECLARATIONS OF CONSENSUS WERE ACHIEVED ON FUNDAMENTALS OF THE CACM RESTRUCTURING, SOME ASPECTS OF SPECIFICS ON THE CACM RESTRUCTURING, AND THE

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ORIENTATIONS AND OBJECTIVES OF THE POLICY FOR INTEGRATED INDUSTRIAL

DEVELOPMENT IN CA. ALL REAFFIRMED THE NECESSITY OF REGIONAL INTEGRATION. IN GENERAL, THESE ARE FORWARD LOOKING DECLARATIONS BUT AVOID THE NITTY GRITTY OF CURRENT ISSUES. LITTLE CONCRETE IS AVAILABLE YET FOR CONSIDERATION BY THE QUADPARTITE COMMISSION. BUITRAGO EXPRESSED HIS VIEW THAT A MAJOR PROBLEM IS THE UNEVEN EFFORT BY THE FIVE COUNTRIES AT THE HLC WORK AND HE PLACED GUATEMALA AS LAST IN EFFORT, WITH NICARAGUA AND HONDURAS STILL SIGNIFICANTLY BEHIND EL SALVADOR AND COSTA RICA IN THE PROCESS TO STUDY, DOMESTIC SECTORAL CONSULTATIONS AND POSITION PREPARATION. NEVERTHELESS, HE IS HOPEFUL THAT THE HLC WILL BE ABLE TO CONSIDER BY JULY THE PORTIONS OF A DRAFT NEW CACM TREATY WHICH DEAL WITH FISCAL, AGRICULTURAL, INDUSTRIAL, CUSTOMS AND INSTITUTIONAL ISSUES. ALTHOUGH BUITRAGO ADMITTED THERE WAS PROGRESS AT THE MEETING, HE SAID THIS WOULD NOT MEET THE DEMANDS OF THE GOES FOR SUPPORTING ADDITIONAL CAPITALIZATION OF CABEI (SEE SAN SALVADOR 402).

2. FROM THE SALVADORAN POINT OF VIEW, THE MEETING ACCOMPLISHED ALL THAT WAS REALISTICALLY EXPECTED. THE GOES DELEGATION PRESENT CACM; IE, THAT ALL PARTIES NOT JUST HONDURAS, SHED THE EXTRA-CACM ARRANGMENTS AND REACTIVATE REGIONAL PERMANENT ORGANS, EVEN IF THIS WOULD MEAN THAT ONE MEMBER TEMPORARILY STEPS ASIDE. IT RECEIVED NO SUPPORT FOR THIS AND REPORTEDLY COSTA RICA JOINED HONDURAS IN OPPOSITION. THE GOES FORMAL PRESENTATIONS ARE REplete WITH ARGUMENTS FOR REACTIVATION OF THE TREATIES ALREADY IN FORCE, EMPHASIZING THIS NECESSITY AS SEPARAE FROM ANY RESTRUCTURING OF THE CAC.

3. BUITRAGO SHARED HIS VIEW WITH EMBOFF THAT THE LONG EXPECTED MEETING OF CA PRESIDENTS MUST RESOLVE TWO ISSUES BEFORE CONCRETE PROGRESS WILL OCCUR: 1) THE DISPUTE BETWEEN EL SALVADOR AND HONDURAS, AND 2) TRUE COMMITMENT TO MOVE THE CACM AND THE WORK OF THE HLC FORWARD. EVEN IF THESE ARE ACHIEVED, BUITRAGO SPOKE OF THREE YEARS AS A REALISTIC TIME FRAME FOR COMPLETION OF THE RESTRUCTURING PREPARATIONS.

4. WE HAVE OBTAINED COPIES OF SEVERAL OF THE GOES POSITION PAPERS (COPIES POUCHED TO ROCAP) AS WELL AS THE AGENDA AND DECLARATIONS OF CONSENSUS OF THE MEETING. A SUBSEQUENT MESSAGE WILL SUMMARIZE AND COMMENT ON THESE, BUT WE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PRESUME ROCAP WILL PROVIDE DETAILED ANALYSIS.
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Message Attributes

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Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
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